after which utilization of the fund would commence. The TRAI has further recommended that both Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and private Basic Service Operators be directed to give highest priority to the installation of Village Public Telephone in all villages by 31.3.2002 as engvisaged in NTP-99.

PMG Office at Jabalpur

†1833. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the stand taken by Government over the demand of opening of a PMG Office at Jabalpur;

(b) whether any proposal is pending in this regard; and

(c) whether opening of a PMG Office at Jabalpur would be an appropriate step?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Keeping in view various factors such as administrative interest, the workload involved and financial considerations, there is no justification at present for opening a PMG's Office at Jabalpur. There is also no proposal pending in this regard.

Dues from cellular companies

1834. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount due from the cellular companies, companies-wise; and

(b) what steps have been taken to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, a sum of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Rs. 301.46 crorers (excluding interest) is due towards licence fee and revenue share from private cellular mobile telephone operators. In addition, a sum of Rs. 186.55 crores is due from them towards wireless spectrum charges. Company-wise detail is furnished in the statement (*See* below).

(b) The licence fee dues are mainly in respect of 3 terminated licenses of M/s Koshika Telecom Limited, and one working Uttar. Pradesh (East) Circle licence. Steps has been taken by the Government to recover the licence fee dues by encashment of the Bank Guarantees and termination of the licences. The licensee was also offered a restoration cum migration package for clearance of dues, which could not materialize. An amount of Rs. 100 crore was, however, paid by the licensee, balatedly in September, 2000. A demand notice was issued to the company on 23.3.2001 for payment of dues, however, no payment was received. M/s. Koshika Telecom currently have resorted to legal proceedings in Delhi High Court against the demand issued by DoT for payment of outstanding dues apprehending termination of UP(E) Circle Licence where an interim Stay Order was passed on termination of UP(E) Circle Licence by the Delhi High Court on 24.9.2001. The matter is sub-judice at present.

The dues against M/s BPL pertain to revenue share for the current quarter (October to December, 2001) for which they have asked for time. The dues will be paid alongwith interest for delayed payment up to the actual date of payment.

With regards to the Wireless Spectrum Dues, notices and reminders were issued to the licensees for clearing their dues expeditiously. Some of the operators have filed petition with the Telecom Dispute Settlement and Arbitration Tribunal (TDSAT) and the matter is slated for final hearing on 4.1.2002.

Statement

Company-wise details of amount due from Cellular Companies

(Rupees in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Service Area	**Licence fee due	**Revenue share due	Wireless spectrum charges due
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Fascel	Gujarat			1.19
2.	Hexacom	Rajasthan			5.68
3.	Spice	Karnataka			10.16
		Pubjab			19.12
4.	RPG	Madhya Pradesh			5.33
5.	Aircell	Haryana			6.7
	Digilink	Rajasthan			5.78
		Uttar Pradesh (East)			7.67
6.	Koshika	Uttar Pradesh (West)	4.85		13.4
		Uttar Pradesh (East)	167.01		terminated
		Bihar	33.77		6.14
		Orissa	49.15		10.45
					terminated
					2.65
					terminated
7.	BPL US West	Kerala			9.07
		Tamil Nadu			12.19
		Maharashtra			10.51
8.	Aircell	Tamil Nadu			2.04
9.	Sterling	Delhi			13.45
10.	H. Max	Mumbai			12.87
11.	BPL	Mumbai		10.68	24.39
12.	RPG	Chennai			4.57
13.	Usha	Kolkatta			3.19
	TOTAL:		290.78	10.68	186.55

**This excludes interest for delay in payments which is chargeable up to the actual date of payment.